

Training & Education Subgroup
Meeting Notes
May 9, 2003

Members Present: Christa Adkins, Tami Barreto, Amos Brown, Suellen Jackson-Boner, Mike Keifer, Brad King, Zach Main (proxy for Nick Rhoad), Patricia Wilson. Facilitator: Anita Kolkmeier

Others present: Laura Larimer, Chief Information Officer for State Of Indiana, Julia Vaughn (Count Us In)

Anita introduced Laura Larimer who wanted to inform the group of the training that was available. First she discussed the availability of video conferencing in many libraries around the state. Also, the state is able to store recorded training videos which would then be available upon request. Brad asked about facilities for satellite capability. She thought that Ivy Tech had that available.

Anita opened the meeting with the following general announcements: please note that the revised scheduled date of June 27, 2003 for the Vote Indiana Team will be moved to June 30, 2003 to allow for 30 days of public comment prior to reconvening team members. Anita also noted that there are only 1.5 hours of meeting time left for the Training & Education subgroup including today's meeting. The collection of email addresses for interested parties in receiving the state plan during the public comment period should be sent to Sarah.

There was one correction to the minutes from March 21, 2003. Tami Barreto corrected her quote to say "increase voter participation" instead of "increase voter registration."

Brad showed the group 2 poll worker training videos from Los Angeles County, California and asked for comment. Brad said that the video focused on the mechanics of an election. Suellen liked the humor and said that was a way to engage workers. Christa agreed and said that visual reinforcement was a good technique. Amos liked that they showed how the workers interacted with the voter. They showed real circumstances that could arise and positive interaction. Tami said that it should be as real as possible and involve as many people as possible. Amos also said that the checklists got his attention. He liked the Nuts and Bolts book and the simplicity of the step by step instructions, i.e. if this happens then you do this. Brad said that the IED has one precinct election handbook. Suellen said that tools are good, especially the polling place map and "I voted" stickers. She said that we should take a look at these tools. Tami thought that using the video in addition to training was needed. Brad said that the tools that were used in the video were not expensive. Suellen thinks that training needs to be fun and asked if there was a fun thing to give them that shows that they have been trained. Mike commented that anything that demystifies the process is helpful. He said that the biggest problem that he experienced while working the polls was the partisan party workers causing problems and controlling the process. He added that the election board needs to be in charge and the voter should not be intimidated by anyone outside. The greatest information that he received in his supplies was the number to the local election board.

Brad then showed a video (of which he was the star) directed toward the voter which was a public service announcement in Minnesota. Brad mentioned that the length of the video can be a problem when running it on television because there is a large amount of information to display but you have to keep it short enough for the stations to run. Suellen thought the video could be distributed and shown at other seminars. Patricia asked if it was available at schools. Amos asked if it was distributed to political parties or non-partisan groups. Brad was not sure but thought that it was available to these groups. Tami reminded the group that we need to let people know what we have available.

The group then discussed the tasks from the agenda. Brad said that there is plenty of need for training and the counties will keep producing home grown training materials. Suellen stressed the importance of training the trainer to provide uniformity and professionalism for local training. Tami asked if there were certain requirements for the trainer. Brad said there were no real requirements. Suellen reminded the group that the goal is to get people voting and then ask what it takes to reach this goal. She asked if \$2.5 will get this done and added this is a small portion of the whole. Brad reminded them that the funds are limited. Suellen then suggested teaming up with partners who can assist and get the word out. She listed universities, groups that see voting as an important part of life, and those who get out the vote as possible partners. Amos questioned going to the private sector to promote this and asked if this was legal or ethical. Suellen then said that paying poll workers for training may help get people to the training. Brad said that some counties already did this. Amos said that we need to get the word out that big changes are coming and that we need trained voters and poll workers, but said this would be difficult to communicate to the whole state. He said that we need to get organized, including state political parties who should bear the burden so that everyone will come to the table.

Tami then said that her worry is maintaining the level of training. Amos suggested having training at state universities, on public access, internet training and also regional training. Patricia suggested getting video to unions who are very involved. Tami inquired about the amount of training required and if one must be updated every election. Brad discussed SEA 136 which requires inspectors and judges to attend training. Brad had lunch with one clerk who did not pay her poll workers for Election Day if they did not attend training. He said that this would have to be a county policy because the election division has no administrative authority over each county's training. Zach mentioned that the poll workers are not well paid and that could be why we can not find individuals who are excited about the work or the training. Amos compared it to jury duty and the pay that juror receive. Brad said that some would work for free and others you could not pay enough to work. The amount is more of an incentive. Brad said that another option is volunteer organizations, i.e. the Lions Club. Patricia suggested groups where employer pays them for their training and working the polls. Suellen said that for members of the disability the amount paid to the poll workers would be a good salary.

Amos then discussed his idea to work with the Indiana Broadcaster's Association to set up a NCSA (cross between PSA and paid ad). **He said that Secretary Rokita needs to contact the Executive Director to discuss the idea of giving money to the state association who then puts pressure on the stations.** This has been done with the National Guard advertisements and it seems to be working. Amos was not sure of the cost but that the Secretary needs to act quickly. He then suggested that the Secretary contact his counterparts in Illinois and Wisconsin

to see if we could get some coverage on the Chicago stations that serve northern Indiana. This could be a general message that a big change in elections is on the way.

Next the group looked at the performance and goals for training and education placed in the plan. Suellen stated again that we should consider the outcome not just the process. Brad suggested adding the number of public service announcements. Patricia also suggested training in other languages.

Public Comment: Julia reiterated her concern with the proposed budget because the money will go very quickly. She said that the Primary in Marion County was an example of the human problems not a technology problem when some poll workers did not know how to set up the machines correctly. She appreciated the video and likes the humor. She reminded the group that they need to be creative and entertain the poll workers and voters.